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5,385, 109, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[Page 8, lines 10-24, the specification reads as follows:

Other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent upon reference to the following description of the preferred embodiments and to the drawings, wherein corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding parts in the drawings and wherein:

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FIG. 1 is a fragmented perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the dispenser of the present invention without the connecting mechanism for attachment to a torpedo;

FIG. 2 is a perspective front view of the dispenser shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a front and side perspective view of the dispenser of FIG. 2 incorporating the bumper of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a cutaway side elevational view of a torpedo in which the TMD assembly shown in FIG. 3 is engaged; and

FIG. 5 is an enlarged view of a portion of FIG. 4.

[Page 9, line 2 through ^{line 25} ~~page 10, line 12~~, the specification reads as follows:

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Referring to FIGS. 1-2, a dispenser 10 includes receptacle 12, and a partitioning insert 14 for storing an elongated

flexible hose 16 with an internal conductor or conductors as a multi-turn, multi-layer coil. The restraining bands 18 and 20 complete the dispenser 10. These components are mounted together coaxially about a deployment axis 22 that is generally horizontal in a submarine application. The receptacle 12 includes a cylindrical hub 24 that contains, within cylindrical wall 26 and an end wall 28, various mounting hardware for connection to a torpedo. Base plate 30 extends radially from one end of the hub 24 to support a cylindrical shell 32 that is concentric with and spaced from the cylindrical wall 26. The partitioning insert 14 is molded or cast with an annular base 34 that attaches or butts the base plate 30. The partitioning insert 14 also includes four finger sets 36, 38, 40 and 42, perpendicular to and extending from base 34 in a direction parallel to axis 22 and spaced approximately 90° about axis 22. Each of the finger sets includes a radial inner finger 44, intermediate fingers 46 and 48 and a radial outer finger 50. Each finger has, for example, a base portion 52, an intermediate portion 54, and a free end 56. An arcuate extension 58 is positioned between the base portion 52 and a base portion of an adjacent finger. There are no extensions between finger sets 40 and 42 as this area constitutes a transition area 60 in which the flexible hose 16 can transfer smoothly between adjacent channels.

Page 10, line 13 through page 11, line 2, the specification reads as follows:

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The TMD 10 further includes a mechanical connector mechanism 104 secured to a shock mount 108 (not shown in FIG. 1) on its lateral peripheral surface. Elastomeric lateral peripheral shock mount 108 is attached to hub 24. Referring now also to FIGS. 3-5, TMD 10 includes annular, elastomeric bumper 110 secured to a forward peripheral surface of shock mount 108 and having a central aperture 112 to permit exposure of ball-locking ring assembly 114. TMD 10 is connected to a torpedo 118 at bell mouth adapter 120 of torpedo 118, which connects to the ball-locking ring assembly 114 and mechanical connector mechanism 104 of TMD 10. Adjacent the bell mouth adapter 120 there is an exhaust valve 122 and the bell mouth adapter 120 connects to drive shaft 124 of torpedo 118. Outwardly adjacent the drive shaft 124 there is a shroud 126 that is positioned in opposed relation to the terminal front shock mount bumper 110.

[Page 11, lines 3-19, the specification reads as follows:

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During certain shock and vibration levels, bumper 110 prevents the TMD locking mechanism from directly impacting shroud 126, so as to avoid the possibility of damage to shroud 126, which may render the locking/unlocking mechanism 104, 114 inoperable. The use of bumper 110 also avoids the possibility that torpedo 118 cannot be deployed because the TMD 10 cannot be unlocked and detached from torpedo 118. The elastomeric bumper 110 also minimizes displacement of TMD 10 and absorbs energy

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created by the displacement of TMD 10, thus reducing damaging loads imparted to the torpedo. Additionally, it will be understood that bumper 110 is an extremely simple and easily implemented modification to prior art TMD 10 that produces exceptional results. Further, bumper 110 covers the locking mechanism 128 (as shown in FIG. 4), inhibiting the locking mechanism 128 from impacting and damaging shroud 126 and preventing disengagement of locking mechanism 128 from locking ring assembly 114.

[Page 16, lines 6-19, the specification reads as follows:

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A torpedo tail mounted dispenser (TMD) for deploying an elongated, flexible article generally along a deployment axis, which includes a receptacle for storing the article in a multiple-turn, multiple-layer configuration about the deployment axis in a storage volume. There is also a torpedo connector mechanism having a terminal forward face and a lateral peripheral surface extending away from the receptacle along the deployment axis. An elastomeric cushioning feature is mounted on the lateral peripheral surface of the connector mechanism. An annular elastomeric bumper is mounted on a forward peripheral face of the cushioning feature, the annular opening of the bumper surrounding the connector mechanism to allow connection of the TMD to a torpedo. The bumper provides protection to the TMD and torpedo under certain shock and vibration levels.